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CNEA SIGNS NUCLEAR TRAINING ACCORD WITH UN

PY310216 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2250 GMT 30 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jan (TELAM)--An agreement for technical cooperation to create the capacity to train highly specialized personnel in nuclear engineering was signed this afternoon at the Planning Secretariat.

It will provide for the instruction of highly specialized personnel in power reactor engineering and scientific research in the fields of reactors, fuel and auxiliary facilities and installations.

The 3-year agreement was reached by the Planning Secretariat and the United Nations program for development. The National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] will act as the government organization which will benefit from the program and the international atomic energy organization will provide the UN cooperation.

Brig Gen Jose Miret, the planning secretary; Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of CNEA; Josef Schutzenberger, representative of the UN program; and other authorities took part in the signing ceremony.

During the ceremony it was reported that the agreement will permit the Balseiro Institute--a department of the CNEA's research and development office in Bariloche--to have a panel of highly specialized professors and aides to teach nuclear engineering as a career.

It was stated that the professionals to be trained will have work possibilities throughout the country but, "considering the need for nuclear engineers in the rest of Latin America, the government will continue to grant slots for Latin American students through the CNEA. In this way we will also be contributing to technical cooperation among developing nations."

It was also emphasized that "Argentina is a country in which the generation of energy through nuclear plants is a necessity and not an alternative in order to achieve a more rational and effective use of natural resources." The program's budget provides for $1.264 million as the United Nations contribution and 5.515 billion pesos from the Argentine Government for the project's logistical requirements.

Admiral Castro Madero expressed his satisfaction with the signing of the agreement and said that this one, in addition to others granted by the international organization, "proves the UN's confidence in the plans of the CNEA." He emphasized that the training of specialists in nuclear engineering "constitutes one of the fundamental aspects of the Argentine nuclear program." Finally, he expressed the hope that "this program will be successful."

Schutzenberger stated: "We are convinced of the importance of training nuclear engineers for Argentina. We are aware of the government's efforts to train its own personnel and to use its resources more rationally and effectively." He concluded by hoping for a successful culmination of the agreement.

BRIEFS

IDB CREDIT GRANTED--Concordia, 26 Jan (TELAM)--IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Antonio Ortiz Mena has announced here the concession of a $250 million credit to Argentina for its hydroelectric projects, including installation of high tension lines for the Yacyreta-Apipe project. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0630 GMT 26 Jan 79 PY]

PADILLA COMMENTS ON ECONOMY, ELECTIONS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PY301728 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 26 Jan 79 pp 1, 16 PY

[Excerpt] Cochabamba, 26 Jan--Gen David Padilla Arancibia, president of the military junta, has stated that the national economic situation "is very serious" and that "corrective measures," such as the gradual increase of taxes and other measures, are being enforced since the next constitutional government will have to confront this problem in a comprehensive manner.

Furthermore, he noted that "certain political parties" are now discouraged from participating in the elections, but that his government "will not accept pressure from any sector and instead will listen to the general consensus of the people. It has been decided, therefore, that the elections will be held and that constitutional rule will be handed over on 6 August."

He issued a severe warning to those who wish to interfere in this political process and said that they will have to answer for their deeds.

General Padilla made this statement in a press conference held at the Cochabamba oil workers' social security building. Also present at the press conference were the finance minister, high-ranking military chiefs and local authorities.

Asked by PRESENCIA whether he believes the next government may confront difficulties if economic measures are not enforced now and what measures could now be taken to decrease the government deficit, the president said: "The country is confronting a serious economic situation. Corrective measures will be enforced to confront this problem but without causing a burden to the people, particularly those sectors with limited income. We will enforce a gradual increase in taxes to achieve the financial and political normalization of the country." He added that other measures will be enforced since "we cannot simulate living in a fictitious situation as we have been doing."

He added: "We have to tighten our belts with a policy of austerity that will have to be enforced from government circles down to the last citizen, but this does not mean we have to put the burden on sectors with less income."

He added that these measures will be enforced at the time political parties or alliances confirm that they will participate in the elections. [sentence as published]

Asked by PRESENCIA about Chile's spying activity in Peru and Bolivia and about the Peruvian Government's reaction, General Padilla said: "As a Bolivian it is my duty not to interfere in activities of foreign countries, but as a government leader it is my duty to review and study what is taking place in neighboring countries."

Regarding the JUNCO [Cochabamba Community Board] request on breaking economic relations with Chile, the president categorically stated: "Any break in relations means a rupture at all levels, but at present we are maintaining a consulate for merely commercial purposes."

Regarding coup attempts, he said "there is no danger. My government will hold the elections on the basis of the unity and support of the armed forces."

He noted that the movement of 24 November 1978 was a process which stemmed from the unity of the armed forces in answer to the people's request to "stop the Bolivian people from being deceived with promises and postponed elections."

"I warn all those political groups or individuals who plan to interfere with the present democratization process that they will have to answer for their deeds."

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS FORM NEW MOVEMENT

PY301632 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Jan 79 p 7 PY

[Excerpts] Political organizations identified with the thinking of former President Rene Barrientos have decided to unite their forces to build one single political entity.

The political parties which made up the National Barrientist Movement, including professional, labor and peasant organizations, have decided to form the Revolutionary Bolivian Movement [Movimiento de la Revolucion Boliviana], which will open offices throughout the country.

Spokesmen of this new political party reported that it has been decided to unite political, civic and labor forces "to offer the country a pluralist and nationalist option" as a result of a series of consultation meetings held by parties and other political and labor forces making up the National Barrientist Movement with the purpose of studying the Bolivian situation on the domestic and international scenes.

They added that the Bolivian Revolutionary Party, the Popular Christian Movement and the National Revolution and Development Party, after reassessing the scene, decided that the activities of the National Barrientist Movement have been duly fulfilled.

PRESIDENT PADILLA RULES OUT WITHDRAWAL FROM ITC

PA300254 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Jan 79 p 1 PY

[Excerpt] In giving his opinion about the most burning national problems, President Padilla dispensed with the possibility of Bolivia withdrawing from the International Tin Council [ITC] and denied that during its development the Karachipampa project [lead and silver plant] could have experienced irregularities which are likely to affect the nation in general and the Department of Potosi in particular.

In his first statement regarding the results of the recent ITC meeting, which proved to be negative for Bolivian interests, the chief of state criticized the highly industrialized nations and the other tin-producing countries for their refusal to discuss an increase of the minimum and maximum price scale, an attitude which is not in keeping with the worldwide economic situation and the high production costs which Bolivia has to endure.

Padilla, who answered a number of journalists' questions on various issues of national interest shortly before visiting the Alasitas fair, praised the "worthwhile and patriotic efforts of the Bolivian delegation to the recent ITC meeting in London," stressing that on that occasion Bolivian Minister of Mines and Metallurgy Gen Jorge Echazu had conveyed the official position of the Bolivian Government.

Regarding the future steps which will be taken in the field of Bolivia's relations with the ITC, the chief of state indicated that these relations will be subject to methodical analysis and that appropriate and strong steps will be taken to obtain fair and reasonable results, disregarding, however, the possibility of withdrawing from this council.

JORNAL DO BRASIL DISCUSSES FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

PY301752 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Jan 79 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "For the Better"]

[Text] The rules adopted recently for the dealings of importers, exporters and borrowers from financial institutions and international banks which are to be implemented over the next 5 years are indeed a sign of maturity. After a long period of living with an economic policy fitted to particular cases and driven by circumstantial impulses, the outgoing government of President Geisel (or is it the incoming government of General Figueiredo?) has decided to shape Brazil's foreign economic relations with rules and principles which will be in force for 5 years. The country is changing--for the better.

The meeting held the day before yesterday by the National Monetary Council had some good results. According to Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen, the meeting adopted two measures which are to be welcome: "Minireform in foreign exchange rates" and a "full legalization" of Brazils' foreign trade policy in line with the new and strict norms of the subsidies code subscribed to by GATT member countries.

A combination of the gradual reduction of the credit-bonus against the manufactured goods tax for exporters of manufactured goods with the gradual elimination of the cumbersome advance deposit for imports (together with the annual devaluation of 4.5 percent on top of the regular devaluation of the cruzeiro in the next 5 years) will have a favorable effect immediately. Brazil will put its export subsidy policy (and its policy of hindering imports) on a more rational basis, maintaining a correct balance between our priorities and those of our international partners, who fought against the protectionism which we were practicing just as they were. If, on the one hand, we began to play by the international rules of the game as an adult economy which wants to join the traders' big league should, on the other hand we spread out the modifications over a long term to allow our exporters and importers to adjust to them smoothly. We made a tradeoff over a period of time suited to our interest: We will drop the expert subsidies and the elimination of the advance deposit for imports and the gradual acceleration of the minidevaluations. The net result of this tradeoff for the exporter, in terms of dollars, will be balanced out, at worst. And all of this will be done without traumas and without loss of competitiveness and markets.

Moreover, the government decision will put Brazil in the position to demand from its trade partners--the United States, for instance--a really liberal policy in questions of international trade. We have moved from a defensive to an offensive position. Brazil has promptly complied with the new GATT norms--and the others?

Simultaneously the minireform in foreign exchange rates will have more salutary side effects on the export of agricultural products which were not benefited with export subsidies--in other words, they will take no loss by the suspension of subsidies, but will henceforth be benefited by devaluations of the cruzeiro. And this minireform will sensibly reduce the lack of cost competitiveness of some Brazilian primary products on the international market.

On the international front then the Geisel government will leave the house in order for its successor. However, it does not leave in the best order the crucial question of fuel savings and dependency on foreign oil supply. Feeling pain on this side, the government once more changed the rules of credit for car buyers by shortening the period of financing. [paragraph continues]

First, it is debatable if this is the best way to reduce fuel consumption; and second, it is also debatable if it is worth, just now, bringing the automobile industry--and its direct dependent, the autoparts industry--to a swift deceleration. It is known how difficult it is to manage to adjust the inflation control instruments precisely in order not to risk a disastrous recession. It is necessary in this case to carefully measure the impact of deceleration in the automobile industry on the job market.

But it should not be pure coincidence that the National Monetary Council decided, at the same meeting, to set down rules for foreign trade and the automobile industry, because essentially there is only one way to compensate for our oil dependency--exporting our products.

MISSOES REGION DECLARED DROUGHT DISASTER

PY292227 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Jan 79 p 9 PY

[Excerpts] Porto Alegre--Mayors of 12 districts in the Missoes region have decided to create a commission to report on Tuesday to Governor Sinval Guazzelli that they have declared a state of public disaster and they will ask the agriculture secretary to provide them with equipment to drill artesian wells and enlarge dams due to the drought which the state is experiencing.

Over 1 million tons of soybeans have already been lost in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Initial export estimates for soybeans this year, should the crop turn out normal, were at least 1.5 million tons. The remainder of the crop was to be retained for the domestic market, to produce oil and fodder, and part would be reserved for seed. In exports alone the loss is now estimated at $300 million.

Since the crop of Rio Grande do Sul State will not reach the initially estimated 6.2 million tons, it would be equally difficult to reach the estimated export quota. The industrialists are also afraid that the government will not free the prices for exports in view of the drought and, even less, the prices for the domestic market as was being speculated.

The FECOTRIGO--Wheat Cooperatives Federation--is currently estimating a 20-percent loss, but sources in the agriculture secretariat are already admitting the loss of 30 percent of farmed lands, bearing in mind that the main producing areas such as the Missoes region have suffered most and have lost up to 40 percent of their crops.

BRIEFS

XAVANTES AIRCRAFT--A group of FAB [Brazilian Air Force] planes composed of a squadron of Xavante aircraft manufactured by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] has been incorporated into the Santa Maria airbase in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. These aircraft are specialized in photoreconnaissance. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Jan 79 PY]

PETROLEUM IMPORTS--Brasilia, 27 Jan (AFP)--The Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS] has reported that Brazilian petroleum imports in 1978 totaled $3.93 billion, as compared to $3.52 billion in 1977, an increase of 11.6 percent. The volume of imported petroleum products in 1978 was 50.5 million cubic meters, compared to 45.7 million cubic meters in 1977, a 10.5-percent increase. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1734 GMT 27 Jan 79 PY]

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR RETURNS FROM 'WORKING VACATION'

PY301819 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 30 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Mario Hugo Miatello, Argentine ambassador to Chile, has stated that he is optimistic about the development of relations between Argentina and Chile. He noted that relations between the two countries will become closer and more constructive. He added that after the moments of tension and apprehension it is necessary to focus our attention on socioeconomic aspects which [words indistinct].

During his 15-day stay in Buenos Aires he met with Argentine President Videla from whom he received (?instructions) and with whom he also discussed [word indistinct] subjects which may be developed in the future. Ambassador Miatello returned to Santiago at 1100 this morning. He arrived in Santiago aboard an Aerolineas Argentinas flight and was received at Pudahuel International Airport by Argentine Embassy officials.

In a brief talk with the press, the diplomat explained that his stay in Buenos Aires was what he called a working vacation. He added that relations between the two countries are completely normal. [Words indistinct]. He said he was very happy to be back since at this time he was able to bring some of his sons who from now on will stay with the Miatello family in Chile.

Miatello said he will maintain constant contact with the press, which will be informed everytime there is a new development in relations between the two countries.

FURTHER DETAILS ON TRANS-ARGENTINE TRUCK TRAFFIC

PY301839 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 30 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Trucks detained at the Argentine-Brazilian border will now arrive in Chile. Five trucks which were part of a group detained at Paso de los Libres on the Brazilian-Argentine border will arrive today in Los Andes. This has been reported by [name indistinct], manager of the (?Corantes) Transportation Company [words indistinct]. The executive reported that this is a first stage since the rest of the trucks will continue to arrive in Chile.

The trucks had been detained since mid-(?December) 1978 and the group totaled about 200 vehicles. Traffic from Brazil to Chile is thereby normalized in accordance with the trans-Andean agreement, and it also means the enforcement of the Montevideo agreements.

The trucks which will arrive in Los Andes are transporting cars, equipment, [word indistinct], yerba mate, television sets and tools to repair electrical appliances. (?Gerardo Domingues) has explained that now that everything has been solved, traffic from Santiago to Brazil will also be normalized. He added that his enterprise will send fruits of the season and other Chilean export products to Brazil.

BRIEFS

ANTARCTIC NAVY CREW--The antarctic crew appointed to the Arturo Prat navy base has been relieved at a ceremony held at the Antarctic base. Capt (Epolinario Mora Carrillo) handed over the command to Lt (Jorge Enrique Castillo). Present at the ceremony were the director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute, military officers, the Chilean transportation crew, foreign journalists and scientists of the Antarctic Institute. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 30 Jan 79 PY]

LOPEZ MICHELSEN URGES LIBERALS TO SUPPORT TURBAY'S PROGRAM

PA300236 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today broke his political silence and urged the Liberal Party to support President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's work program. President Lopez Michelsen made this statement in reply to an invitation made by the Liberal Party's National Directorate and the Interparliamentary Board to attend the convention scheduled for 9 March.

Lopez Michelsen said that he will receive the members of the Interparliamentary Board in his home on 1 February at whatever time they wish. The message sent by former President Lopez Michelsen to the Interparliamentary Board in charge of organizing the 9 March general assembly says in its main part that he intends to contribute, in a modest manner and according to his abilities, to the reorganization of the party from his position.

He adds that the government headed by a member of our party and ruling for all Colombians needs the support of an organized and responsible sector so that he can successfully carry out his work program. Those of us who have undeservedly received the highest distinctions cannot withhold our support from the government's efforts. The undisputable [words indistinct] will also be the best place to maintain the [word indistinct] with which Colombian public opinion has favored us during the past 50 years, the former president concludes.

In this manner the path is being cleared for the holding of the Liberal Party convention and it is very possible, based on what he suggested in his letter, that Lopez Michelsen will attend this party gathering.

M-19 DENOUNCES COLOMBIAN CLERGY AT PUEBLA CONFERENCE

PA292307 Paris AFP in Spanish 2129 GMT 29 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Jan (AFP)--The allegedly dismantled M-19 guerrilla movement severely attacked the Colombian clerical hierarchy in a message it sent to the third Latin American episcopal general conference meeting in Puebla, Mexico, it was revealed here today. In the communique sent to the Bogota news media, the M-19 said that the hierarchy favors the powerful and tries to disregard the doctrines approved in Medellin, Colombia, in 1968. The communique asks the bishops meeting in Mexico to pay attention to the leftist clergy, which is, in M-19's opinion, the only one truly identified with the interests of the lower classes.

This is the M-19's second appearance since it was dealt stunning blows by the army in its efforts during the past 20 days to recover an arsenal stolen by the rebel group in a Bogota canton. Shortly after these setbacks, the M-19 painted slogans on a museum in this city identifying itself as a political and military organization.

FARC GUERRILLAS ATTACK TOWN; THREE PERSONS KILLED

PA300238 Paris AFP in Spanish 1921 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Jan (AFP)--It has been learned here that three persons were killed and four were injured during the guerrilla attack that took place today in the town of Curvarado, Choco Department. Two civilians and one policeman died in the attack and four other civilians were seriously injured. The guerrillas, members of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), escaped to the mountains after looting the local shops and haranguing the townspeople.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER SAYS TERRORISM 'DEFEATED' HERE

PA301405 Paris AFP in Spanish 0210 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Jan (AFP)--Government (Interior) Minister German Zea Hernandez announced here today that terrorism has been defeated in Colombia. In a talk with newsmen, the official said that Colombia had been saved from the "terrorism which recently has been the scourge of Uruguay and Argentina."

The minister credited the vigor and efficiency displayed by Colombia's military forces with being responsible for controlling the subversion in the country which, according to President Julio Cesar Turbay, had threatened democratic institutions. Zea Hernandez emphasized the results of the 32 raids and the arrest of 135 persons in blows which the army has dealt to the urban M-19 guerrilla movement.

The M-19 has been practically dispersed after having stolen 4,303 weapons from a military garrison north of here through a tunnel early this year. In successive raids, the army recovered 95 percent of the weapons and captured several leaders of the group, which was the (?most active) in Colombia.

In noting the victory over terrorism here today, Minister Zea Hernandez said that for the moment the government cannot rule out the possibility that "a serious situation could develop, with attacks and other such actions."

Army and police reports indicated tonight that, apart from a guerrilla attack in western Choco Department in which three persons were killed, the country is calm.

SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT CRITICIZES U.S. DRUG TRAFFIC POLICY

PA281636 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1521 GMT 28 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 28 Jan (EFE)--Jose Maria Esguerra Samper, president of the Colombian Supreme Court of Justice, today attacked the United States, indicating that "it is the only one responsible for controlling the drug traffic in America."

The new president of Colombia's highest court said that the U.S. executive branch should wage an exhaustive struggle against the flow of drugs to the United States. He added that "it is to the advantage of the United States to take a more active role in fighting this problem because the marihuana and cocaine are destined for that country."

"It is in other countries, such as our neighbors to the north," Esguerra Samper said, "where there are many drug addicts, and it is they who should see to it that narcotics do not reach their territory. They should not expect us to protect them, even with the army."

In a statement to the Caracol Radio station, Esguerra Samper said that the U.S. executive is following the path of least resistance in the narcotics problem, "that is, to hand over the problem to us, urging us to stop the drug traffic."

"Fortunately," he added, "there are hardly ary drug addicts in Colombia; it is the United States which has the problem."

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ANSWERS ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

PA281421 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has answered questions from political parties regarding their doubts about the registration of candidates for the National Chamber of Representatives. The report confirms that since the tribunal's suggestion was not accepted, rectors, vice rectors and national teachers will not be able to run unless they resign by 7 February. It also states that those who personally or as company representatives have contracts with the national, provincial or sectional [seccional] governments or any other public sector body will not be able to run either.

ELECTORAL REFORMS BAR MANY FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PA302215 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Recent reforms of the electoral law issued by the military regime create obstacles to the selection of National Assembly representatives, the members of the Ecuadorean parliament.

Anyone who draws a government salary or is a bank manager or a legal adviser for national public companies cannot be a candidate for the assembly. Included in this category, as confirmed by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, are university professors. This eliminates elements representing the university from parliament. Another requirement states that every candidate must belong to a political party. Under this statute come former Presidents Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra, Carlos Julio Arosemena, Otto Arosemena, Clemente Yerovi Indaburu and Galo Plaza, among others.

The 12 parties legally recognized by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal must register their candidates before 7 February.

The candidates to vie in the 8 April presidential elections are the finalists of the 16 July 1978 elections: Jaime Roldos, the Populist candidate, and Sixto Duran Ballen of the Constitutionalist Front.

Representatives of the various political parties praised but, due to lack of time, did not accept a system automating the electoral process. A meeting of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal was held yesterday to consider this matter. At the meeting the tribunal dismissed for lack of time suggestions by political leaders that the deadline for registering candidates for the National Assembly be extended beyond 7 February.

The meeting was held at 1730 yesterday in the tribunal's headquarters. Attending were Tribunal President Gustavo Chavez, Vice President Fidel Ponce, and spokesmen Jose Teran Varea, Eduardo Zurita and Patricio Marquinez. Representing various parties were Asaad Bucaram of the Coalition of Popular Forces, Rafael Armijos of the Conservative Party, Armando Pareja of the Liberal Party, Fabian Jaramillo of the Socialist Party, Luis Felipe Borja of the Velasquist Party and Jorge Moreno of the Popular Democratic Movement.

ALFARIST RADICAL FRONT LOSES FIGHT FOR LEGALITY

PA271919 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 27 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court has confirmed the ruling of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and has declared itself incompetent [to rule] on the petition submitted by the Alfarist Radical Front [FRA].

The court dismissed the FRA's legal arguments on the ground that it could not rule on the FRA's extinction because the constitution now in effect is the 1945 one and not the one approved during the referendum. The latter constitution was used in support of the appeal. With this ruling, the party of economist Abdon Calderon has buried its last hopes for obtaining legal status.

ECUADOREAN SOCIALIST PARTY PURSUES NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN

PA261510 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] The Ecuadorean Socialist Party [PSE] has gone all the way in organizing a nationwide campaign and presenting candidates in all the provinces of the country. PSE militants will make promises in every single corner of Ecuador. This is the first party to prepare a list of candidates based on the merits of its members. PSE Director Dr Fabian Jaramillo Davila told Radio Quito:

[Begin Jaramillo recording] The PSE has definitely decided to participate with its own candidates in all provinces of the republic. For this purpose commissions of the Executive Committee and I, personally, as general director of the committee, have visited almost all the provinces. We have participated in provincial assemblies in various parts of the country and have already announced our lists of candidates. [end recording]

FRA OFFICIAL CRITICIZES CALDERON CASE TRIAL

PA270307 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Dr Edgard Molina criticized the handling of the Calderon Munoz murder trial. Molina, the running mate of economist Calderon Munoz in the presidential elections, told Radio Quito that as a citizen, a lawyer and a member of the Radical Alfarista Front [FRA], he charges that the political plot which put an end to Calderon's life is now present at the proceedings.

Edgard Molina said that there is undoubtedly a plot by unidentified persons of high rank which is casting shadows on the trial of Abdon Calderon Munoz' murderers.

Undoubtedly, the FRA president said, there are many irregularities in the trial proceedings and in the behavior of the authorities toward the accused.

Analyzing the situation of the accused, Molina emphasized that there is a veritable army of lawyers, and that the country should be told where the money is coming from to pay all these lawyers, since the accused are poor. The accused are given all facilities and the accusers are hampered in every way, Molina said. He added: As everyone knows, the comptroller general spent 4 hours with General Jarrin yesterday. The meeting was to learn of the private expenditures made by Jarrin. Why is this data not included in the proceedings?

For the good of the people and for the good of the Ecuadorean judicial system, these things should be put in their place, Molina said.

In another part of the interview with Radio Quito, the FRA leader emphatically said that there is more than meets the eye in the Calderon case. Expanding this concept, he said: Things are being handled in such a way that the trial will conclude with a sentence in which Calderon Munoz will surely wind up being the attacker and his relatives will surely have to pay an indemnity for slander to the murderers of the FRA leader.

Referring to the amendments to the armed forces personnel law, according to which a convicted officer could serve his sentence at an army base, Edgard Molina expressed his surprise and said: How can a place which is oonsidered as a temple [as heard] be converted into a refuge for criminals? This attitude on the part of those who intend to escape punishment for their crimes dishonors the armed forces. Army bases are sacred and should not be a refuge for criminals. Those who see things differently are true enemies of the country. Civilians and the FRA especially maintain that the armed forces should be cleansed of such an offense, which is also an offense to national dignity. Whoever has not been able to behave as an upright man in his life should not continue to call himself a soldier, he added.

JARRIN'S GOVERNMENT MINISTRY EXPENDITURES WERE NORMAL

PA251436 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] The comptroller general of the nation, Dr Luis Hidalgo Lopez, has announced that expenditures reported by former Government Minister General Bolivar Jarrin were normal. Hidalgo said that the former minister went to the comptroller general's office to make available to analysts and auditors a report on the use he made of Government Ministry funds during his term in office. According to the comptroller, the auditing did not reveal any delivery of money to the plotters in the assassination of Abdon Calderon. The comptroller refused to report how the Government Ministry funds were used because of a law prohibiting it.

1978 TRADE BALANCE SHOWS $295-MILLION SURPLUS

PA212326 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1245 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 20 Jan (LATIN)--It was officially reported here that Ecuador's 1978 balance of trade showed a surplus of $295 million compared to a surplus of $102 million in 1977.

According to a recent report issued by Finance Minister Juan Reyna, the estimated balance of trade figures for 1978 were $1.586 million in exports and $1.291 million in imports. A spokesman for the Central Bank's Monetary Department told LATIN that Ecudaor's exports totalled $1.385 million and imports totaled $1.283 million in 1977.

The figures reported by Reyna, which showed a surplus that surpassed all expectations, include foreign exchange derived from petroleum sales and price adjustments on raw materials and other products.

According to the spokesman, a Central Bank statistic had revealed that the 1977 balance of trade showed a $97-million deficit, but the aforementioned items had not been taken into consideration.

The reason for the favorable balance was mainly due to a remarkable increase in coffee exports, which represented $329 million in 1978 and $156 million in 1977. Banana exports also increased. They were $185 million in 1978 and $175 million in 1977. The 1978 figure for the other principal raw material export, cacao, was $55 million, showing a $2-million decrease over the previous year. Oil exports, which have transformed the Ecuadorean economy in the current decade, amounted to $553 million in 1978. This figure includes $50 million in compensation [as received], Central Bank sources revealed.

The sources added that the 1977 oil export figure was $645 million. [all figures as received]

PRESIDENT-ELECT DISCUSSES COLOMBIAN, GUYANESE RELATIONS

PA300020 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2238 GMT 29 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 29 Jan (LATIN)--In an interview for the Caracas magazine BOHEMIA, President-elect Luis Herrera Campins said that lengthier negotiations would be necessary in order to resolve the border conflict between Venezuela and Colombia. Herrera, 53, won the 3 December elections as the Social Christian Party (COPEI) candidate and will succeed Carlos Andres Perez, of Democratic Action, on 12 March.

I have maintained that the so-called dispute over the delimitation of the marine and submarine areas of the Gulf of Venezuela should be the object of lengthier negotiations, Herrera told journalist Guido Acuna. The president-elect recalled that the negotiations began during President Rafael Caldera's administration (1969-74), but that with the rise of President Carlos Andres Perez the negotiations were replaced by talks between presidents. Ostensibly this should have speeded up the conclusion of an agreement, but what it really did was limit the opportunities and flexibility because in each of the two countries the president's word was final, Herrera commented. According to the president-elect, an optimal point for negotiations has not yet been reached between Colombia and Venezuela because in neither of the two countries is public opinion prepared to accept the signing of an agreement.

During the BOHEMIA interview, Herrera was cautious with respect to Guyana, a country with which Venezuela has a territorial claim which has been suspended until 1982 under the so-called Port-of-Spain protocol.

I am under the impression that this is really a very difficult situation, he commented. First of all because Venezuela seemed to be, and in fact was, a country affected by a large power--England--which in those days held British Guiana under its colonial control. Later, this colony became the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and for the rest of the countries, particularly the Afro-Asian ones, the perspective changed.

According to Herrera, Venezuela is now the strongest country facing a new neighbor, from which it is demanding most of its territory.... In terms of both logic and history, this is very difficult to achieve.

HERRERA CAMPINS SPEECH DEALS WITH MILITARY SERVICE

PA291228 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Jan 79 p D-5 PA

[By Americo Fernandez]

[Text] Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, 24 Jan--President-elect Luis Herrera Campins has greeted the members of the armed forces of the Bolivar State and Amazonas Territory Garrison under the command of Gen John Arthur Kavanagh in this city.

The president-elect, who was warmly received at the airport at 0900, said in his speech in Fort Cayaurima that his administration will govern for the whole country and will continue to promote the economic growth of Guayana, but that he will increasingly tie this in with social growth and necessary human considerations to reach an equilibrium.

In this respect he said that his administration will ask for the participation of democratic sectors which are prepared to serve the country with true zeal and dedication.

He said that his administration will be broadminded and use consultation and talks as the best way to attain rapprochment with all sectors of the people.

The president-elect told the soldiers of the 6th Infantry Division that the government's investments in Guayana and Bolivar State will continue at a balanced and rational rate, consistent with the real possibilities and capabilities of the nation during the next presidential term. Herrera Campins was accompanied by Gen Landys Ferreira, commander in chief of the air force, and Government Secretary J. M. Gomez Bello, in addition to General Kavanagh.

I know that I will receive a Venezuela with many economic and fiscal difficulties, but I have complete confidence that with the administrative team I will very carefully select, with the cooperation of all organized sectors ofthe country and with the understanding of all the people, we will march forward in the unstoppable process of the emergence of a new country in Guayana, he said.

Referring to the increasingly neglected social sector, especially considering the new country emerging in Guayana, the president-elect said that our nation is sufficiently wealthy in material and economic resources, in human potential, in creative capacity and in daring imagination to successfully undertake this struggle against neglect.

After mentioning the immense possibilities of the mining, hydraulic, forestry, agricultural and fishing resources of Guayana, the president-elect said that he was going to implement a promotional state [estado promotor] tocreate incentives for the development of these resources and to overcome the backwardness which could pose difficulties for the acceleration of growth.

He promised that his administration will pay attention to the transformation of the natural resources of the region and to the creation of an infrastructure which will support the growing population of Venezuelan Guayana, a material and service infrastructure, so that today's grave problems--such as the water shortage plaguing Ciudad Bolivar, Puerto Ordaz, Upata and other cities in the state--will be solved technically and permanently.

Herrera Campins said that this region of Bolivar State, like no other region of Venezuela, needs to be criss-crossed by highways and roads which will lead to the different places of human habitation to permit the civilian government and the armed forces to travel easily and exercise greater vigilance on our borders, to attain the border development which we desire, and to populate the area with the native people by raising their consciousness without intending to remove them from their cultural framework, through the participation of the jungle units of the garrison and the cooperation of the state's agrarian reform organization in a constant and immediate manner.

The policy of populating and developing our borders will receive special attention from my government, he said.

Continuing on the subject of borders, the president-elect said that the advance border posts must be well equipped so that their service personnel will not feel they are being subjected to punishment, but that they are fulfilling the lofty mission of protecting the fatherland's territorial integrity.

The president-elect said that he had knowledge of a series of problems facing officers of the armed forces and their families which are part of the general social problems the Venezuelan people endure. He said that one of them is housing, which has constantly been brought to his attention, and that his administration will encourage, stimulate and promote a more rapid development of the policy to solve the housing problem of the officers and noncommissioned officers of the nation's armed forces.

The president-elect promised that this year and throughout his term in office he will enforce the new military conscription and recruitment law which now makes patriotic military service compulsory for all. New contingents made up of different cultural and social sectors of the population will come here to serve in the manner and form established by military regulations. He said that this is a new reality which Venezuela will face starting in September of next year.

The president-elect concluded his speech by expressing his best wishes for the welfare of all members of the armed forces.

After talking with the officers, the president-elect visited Las Piedritas district of the city and in the afternoon held an audience for the state's representative sectors.

MEP TO PROBE CHARGES OF ADMINISTRATIVE CORRUPTION

PA302143 Caracas Radio Rumbos in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] The People's Electoral Movement (MEP) will conduct an exhaustive investigation of six alleged cases of administrative corruption which it has identified. This statement was made by Deputy Humberto Martinez [words indistinct] of the MEP in Congress.

In a statement to Ernesto Vega of Notirumbos, the congressman said that [words indistinct] at the committee that investigated the bribery in the [words indistinct]. Here is what Humberto Martinez said:

[Begin Martinez recording] We take this opportunity to announce that we will supply substantial evidence that most certainly will prove serious instances of administrative corruption, influence buying, bribery and abuse of power. [Words indistinct] to which high-ranking members of the executive branch and the campaign command of a former presidential candidate were linked. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEW BELGIAN AMBASSADOR--Caracas, 26 Jan (VENPRES)--Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi today received copies of the credentials of new Belgian Ambassador Victor Bernard. The new ambassador will reportedly present his credentials to President Carlos Andres Perez next week. [Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1251 GMT 27 Jan 79 PA]

AD DEPUTY SECRETARY APPOINTED--Dr Humberto Celli has been appointed Democratic Action [AD] deputy secretary general. He is currently president of the Chamber of Deputies. [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Jan 79 PA]

NEW ACCORD COMMISSION PRESIDENT--Caracas, 26 Jan (VENPRES)--Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart has been elected president of the Cartagena accord commission. Figueredo, who is president of the Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute, will hold the post for 1 year. [Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 27 Jan 79 PA]

SAMUDIO SAYS LIBERAL PARTY TO SEEK REGISTRATION

PA302242 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Jan 79 pp 12, 17 PA

[Excerpts] Boquete--(special reporter)--"Panama comes first, and then comes the Liberal Party," said David Samudio in his speech closing the training and updating of liberal ideas seminar held last weekend at Los Fundadores Hotel. In his impromptu speech Samudio revealed that the Liberal Party is preparing for registration and that he aspires to no position except that of adviser "if necessary."

The seminar was sponsored by the Jose Dolores Moscote Foundation, a nonprofit organization promoting liberal, democratic ideas, though not part of the Liberal Party. This recently founded organization is preparing to sponsor and hold discussions and seminars for political groups within a liberal framework.

The foundation has the backing of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, which supports state and private entities in 16 countries of the Third World and the General Federal Republic. The goal is to understand the problems and seek solutions to them. The foundation cooperates in literacy programs, research related to development and the education of expert and youth leaders.

The Jose Dolores Moscote Foundation promotes the development of liberal ideas and the defense of democratic government. It tries to fill a vacuum by holding seminars and forums, sponsoring historic research and publications and supporting the civil and political training of leaders. Its executive director is David Samudio. The Board of Directors includes Prof Rafael Moscote and Temistocles Diaz, Rogelio Alfaro, Oscar Navarro, Dulcidio Gonzalez, Juan Ramon Porras, Raul Arias and Carlos Orillac.

"We are beginning the political struggle once more. I thought that I had finished, but the destiny of the country calls me again to continue working for liberalism and the future of the republic. Panama comes first; Panama and then the Liberal Party. However, they constitute a pair because, as Jorge Ruben Rosas said, the party is older than the Republic of Panama," Samudio said.

"I aspire to no position of any kind except to be a soldier who fights for democracy in his fatherland," said Samudio in his speech. He added that from 1960 to 1968, the Republic of Panama was able to progress along a path of study, respecting institutions, democratic machinery and public freedom, planning for all its problems and seeking solutions. As has been said here several times, this brought sustained economic growth which in the eyes of all of Latin America was a credit to the exercise of democracy in our country.

"The Liberal Party now faces another process of registration to acquire legal status and participate in the electoral campaign. At my age I have worked three times for the registration of the Liberal Party. Those who stage coups and those who abruptly terminate constitutional status think that by creating obstacles for the registration of political parties, they will eliminate them. The Liberal Party cannot be eliminated because, as a great Colombian said from this same rostrum, it has deep roots capable of resisting any possible hurricane."

We must take advantage of the opportunity for registration which presents itself to us because it would seem that when those gentlemen reached power this country was a big pasture and had no roads, no schools, no banks and so forth--in other words, a country hidden in the jungle.

In only 10 years they built schools, banks, universities, aqueducts, sewer systems, the public registry, the civil registry and the judicial branch. All that they did in 10 years. What is more, they grew up, studied and became doctors by some trick of magic, said the Liberal Party president.

Gentlemen, the young have a responsibility to study books and history and absorb what is there so each can reach his own conclusions. It cannot be accepted that a citizen who really wants to participate in solutions concerning the leadership of the republic should have to hear everything on radio or television.

The Liberal Party is preparing to register because this is our responsibility. It would be very nice if, at my age, I were to go home and live the rest of my years with my family, said Samudio. He added that he is a full-time politician dutybound to serve his country and that a modern Liberal Party with the participation of the young is being organized.

PDP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANALYZES POLITICAL ALLIANCES

PA302255 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 30 Jan 79 p 6A PA

[From the "Forum del Pueblo" column]

[Text] The Peoples Party [PDP] has issued a communique referring to its Central Committee's expanded plenum. The communique says that on January 27 and 28 they analyzed relations with the emerging political parties representing the Panamanian revolutionary process and especially with the Democratic Revolutionary Party, the Peoples Broad Front Party and other groups.

The PDP note says that party Secretary General Ruben Souza called for a creative and open debate. This centered on the Marxist-Leninist theory of alliances, relations and compromises and dealt with the party's background. In brief, the official communique says that Souza emphasized alliances with other groups supporting the revolutionary process--and the more progressive sectors within these groups--so that these organizations can meet the demands of the complete eradication of colonialism and the democratization of the Panamanian state.

RADIO COMMENTARY CRITICIZES U.S. MILITARY BUILDUP

PA300401 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Jan 79 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. foreign policy has traditionally projected itself under an aura of constant contradiction, which has contributed toward making those governments once characterized by a manifest loyalty to U.S. decisions lose their confidence and faith in that policy. One of the reasons contributing to the loss of that confidence is the somewhat shameless way in which the most prominent U.S. officials practice a government philosophy which from the beginning of this century has set the pace for U.S. political developments.

U.S. President James Carter recently said that he would not sign any agreement unless his country's dissuasive force continued to be overwhelming. Carter made this statement while presenting the 1980 military budget to the 96th session of the U.S. Congress. Commenting on the talks currently being held with the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms, Carter added that the United States is neither interested in nor desires to become the world's policeman.

Such statements, which we have seen published in the press ever since the current U.S. President took office, sound somewhat paradoxical when compared with his administration's military activities, particularly now that the military-industrial complex and the most conservative pressure groups have intensified their attacks on the possibility of reaching a prompt strategic arms limitation agreement with the USSR Government.

These aspects acquire marked interest and generate even greater contradiction when one learns that the U.S. military budget amounts to $125.8 billion, or one-fourth of the total budget.

Meanwhile, observers feel that the development of two basic projects within U.S. military strategy represents a definite effort to exert international pressure from a position of force. These are the development of the Trident, a modern, long-range missile which is to be used as an eminently offensive weapon, and the expansion of the spy satellite network covering the USSR. In line with these two projects, there are also plans to develop the intercontinental MX missile, the SM-1 tank, the Black Hawk and Cobra attack and transport helicopters, and the Patriot and Stinger medium-range rockets.

According to John Fisher, a leader of the so-called American Security Council, one of the 62 [pressure group] organizations involved in military activities, in this campaign this organization expects to spend five times more than the 2 million used in 1978 for this purpose. [sentence as heard]

According to the various spokesmen of these pressure groups--which the actions undertaken by Carter's administration seem to endorse--their true purpose is to strengthen a world coalition encompassing the United States, NATO, Israel and Japan in order to reestablish a world military balance.

Another aspect that is not discarded is the possibility that the PRC leadership might play an important role in such an alliance. Perhaps this is why, according to official sources, this year's sale of weapons--without specifying markets--will increase by 6.6 percent as compared with the previous year. This increase is equivalent to $3.9 billion.

The overwhelming military superiority proposed by Carter includes other aspects that constitute a threat to detente and world peace. For instance, $3.7 million have been allocated to study construction of factories for the manufacture of paralyzing gases. Some $5.5 billion have been allocated to the fields of science, space and technology. This represents an almost 10-percent increase if compared with the previous fiscal year's figures.

NASA, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, will receive $2.3 billion, while the National Science Foundation will obtain $950 million especially to conduct laboratory studies. Finally, an additional $453 million will be used to conduct evaluations, studies and research in the areas of high energy and nuclear physics and the medical-biological sciences.

The military budget has, therefore, increased visibly. President Carter's words are belied by his actions, behind which lie the Pentagon's most aggressive circles and the U.S. military-industrial complex.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO CHILE--Panama's former ambassador to UNESCO, Horacio Bustamante, has been appointed ambassador to Chile. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Jan 79 p 1 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO OAS--Juan Antonio Tack, Panama's new ambassador to the OAS, has presented his credentials to OAS Permanent Council President Fabian Alexis Redhead. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Jan 79 p 40 PA]

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT--Cesar A. Tribaldos Jr has been elected president of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama for the 1979-1980 period. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Jan 79 pp 1, 28 PA]

COSTA RICA

FORMER ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER RUMOR MEETS WITH CARAZO

PA301934 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mariano Rumor, president of the Italian Democratic Party, arrived in Costa Rica at noon yesterday and met with President Rodrigo Carazo that afternoon. They discussed international politics and the influence of Christian democracy as a political group in the world picture. They also touched on the subject of worldwide violence, especially violence in Central American countries.

CARAZO: NO RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA WHILE SOMOZA IN POWER

PA302040 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--As long as Gen Anastasio Somoza is chief of government in Nicaragua, Costa Rica will not establish diplomatic relations with that country. An announcement to this effect was made by Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo in an exclusive interview published today, Tuesday, by the local newspaper LA NACION.

Costa Rica broke diplomatic relations with its northern neighbor in November following a clash between the armed forces of the two countries in which two Costa Rican policemen were killed.

"I hope the situation is settled, but as long as relations between the two peoples are not affected, it matters little if the governments do not have them," the Costa Rican president said according to the newspaper.

Carazo also emphasized that it has been proven that the two countries can settle differences in the OAS without having to maintain direct relations.

The chief of government indicated that the present conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua has not become an obsession of the government, nor has it caused a "Nicaraguan psychosis" at any time. The matter is limited to the ministers related to the problem.

"As head of government, I cannot have relations with a government whose officials murder Costa Ricans," he added.

Carazo admitted the OAS' objectivity in the conflict and pointed out that many chiefs of state have given Costa Rica their backing, including those of Spain, France and Italy.

The president made his statements at the same time that his public security minister, Juan Jose Echeverria, said that an offensive has been undertaken so that the inter-American system will adopt sanctions against the Nicaraguan Government.

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK EFFECTIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA302245 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0116 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[By Eduardo Castro]

[Text] San Jose, 29 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican Government has started mobilizing to have the Organization of American States (OAS) impose effective sanctions on the Nicaraguan Government for its repeated attacks on this country.

This statement was made on Monday by Costa Rican Public Security Minister Juan Echeverria Brealey.

Echeverria said that the Nicaraguan National Guard has been committing provocations in the last few weeks which must not be construed as being aimed only at Costa Rica but at the entire inter-American system as well because the hemispheric defense mechanism is in effect at the request of that country.

Echeverria recalled that the OAS decided to invoke the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR) in view of National Guard violations of Costa Rican territory. "Under the TIAR provisions, Costa Rica, as the country affected, is preparing evidence to request application, in due course, of sanctions against Nicaragua," the minister said.

(Costa Rica severed diplomatic relations with Nicaragua in November because of continuous incidents along the border.)

The public security minister listed the efforts that have been made before the hemispheric body.

First, the case was brought before the Permanent Council. Then the consultative organ met and it was agreed to ask the Nicaraguan Government to desist from any further act of aggression, Echeverria said. "Costa Rica has completed all proceedings with incredible patience. What we must do now is request sanctions," Echeverria added. He also said: "This way it can be verified whether or not the inter-American system is effective."

The minister also said that civilian and military officials left at noon today for a town called Armenia in La Cruz canton, Guanacaste Province, very close to the Nicaraguan border, to investigate a charge by the town's inhabitants that Nicaraguans had staged a new attack today. The population said that Nicaraguan Guardsmen had entered the area, fired their arms and then set fire to huts. Echeverria said that in view of these provocations, the people on the border have decided to move to Santa Cecilia, which they regard as a safer place.

As for the complaint made by personnel at the border posts that they lack military protection, it was announced that civilians will be moved to La Cruz, some 30 km from the border. Henceforth, all procedures connected with the exit of persons and merchandise to Nicaragua and the rest of Central America will be handled at La Cruz. All incoming traffic will be handled at the border offices in Penas Blancas but, whenever possible, it will be handled by Civil Guardsmen and a few private citizens who are not inconvenienced by doing so.

OAS OBSERVERS VISIT SITE OF LATEST TERRITORIAL VIOLATION

PA302017 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] OAS observers have gone to the site of a reported new violation of national sovereignty. Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey, Costa Rican public security and government minister, announced yesterday afternoon that the OAS observers had gone to Santa Cecilia, where a new violation of our national territory apparently occurred. According to reports the minister had, Somozist National Guards burned some huts and fired shots into the air to scare the residents of that border area. The minister said this and other recent National Guard actions were new acts of provocation by the Somozist government, which is now not only attacking Costa Rica but all the governments of Latin America protected by the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. The public security minister reported that measures are being taken to withdraw all government employees from the Penas Blancas area who want to leave in order to allay their fears in view of the possibility of new actions by the Nicaraguan National Guard.

Security Officials Confirm Violation

PA302018 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1816 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Authorities of the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry confirmed today the incursion of a Nicaraguan patrol into Costa Rican territory on Monday.

A high-ranking public security source told ACAN-EFE that civilian and military officials who traveled yesterday to the area located between Las Brisas and Santa Cecilia, near the border with Nicaragua, reported that statements by residents were true.

According to spokesmen, actions such as those of yesterday have led peasants who live in the border region to begin a mass exodus toward the interior of the country since they fear that their families might be harmed at any moment.

COURT RULES INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE IN TUNA BOATS CASE

PA301739 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Puntarenas' Second Examining Court has concluded that there is not sufficient evidence to conduct an arraignment [in the case of the recently captured tuna boats] and instead has ordered a stay of the proceedings against the accused. For this reason, it has also ordered that the investigations be continued in search of new evidence that will support some kind of decision. In other words, until specific charges are made, those responsible for the tuna boats which had been seized by the government have been released.

The Puntarenas examining court decided that there was insufficient evidence to show that, prior to their seizure, the three boats had been fishing illegally. Puntarenas' Second Examining Court feels it is prudent to continue the investigation and, for the time being, has ruled that there is insufficient evidence. Therefore, Andrew (Castanola), Johnny Anthony (Bullit) and (Earl August Peterson) have been released until the charges brought against them are supported by additional evidence.

Jose Francisco Peralta, legal adviser of the government and Public Security Ministry, has described the Puntarenas Second Examining Court's ruling on the seizure of the three fishing boats in jurisdictional waters as a [word indistinct] judicial interpretation. He added that the ruling goes against the text and spirit of the law as well as against national interests. He also said that the current administration is intent on defending our maritime resources, which have traditionally been exploited by foreign fleets.

The government and Public Security Ministry will appeal before the Puntarenas Second Examining Court its ruling on the seizure of the three foreign ships in jurisdictional waters.

Government Condemns Ruling

PA301740 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] The Puntarenas examining judge [juez de instruccion] ordered the release of the tuna boats on the grounds of insufficient evidence. Jose Francisco Peralta, legal adviser of the government and Public Security Ministry, said the judge's decision entailed an erroneous legal interpretation.

The Puntarenas Second Examining Court reached the conclusion that there was no evidence to prosecute or to order the dismissal of the case and ordered that investigations be continued in search of new evidence so that a decision may be reached. This means that until formal charges are filed, the tuna boat captains are free.

The decision releasing the tuna boats is unbelievable. President Carazo sent the assembly a request for an interpretation, hoping that the deputies will promptly look into the case. The president said the Puntarenas judge's decision was inconceivable.

COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES RELEASE OF TUNA BOATS

PA302148 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The release of the tuna boats is an action in accordance with true democracy. Law, justice, the values of state authority and national interest are at stake. Justice must prevail in all legal actions in view of all these factors. Many lessons can be learned from this court decision in Costa Rica, a country based on law. The main lesson is that Costa Rica continues to be a country with full freedoms, where judges are not subject to any decisions but their own, disregarding any other interests.

We understand perfectly the government's uneasiness, but we regret that the authorities who give counsel have made the mistake of not being informed about the law. We hope this setback will not cause the government to relinquish its efforts to preserve authority in our territorial waters. Costa Rica's marine wealth has been plundered for many years. Our country cannot and must not remain indifferent to the threat of piracy in its territorial waters. As we said before during the Oduber administration--and are saying now under the Carazo administration--we support the previous measures as well as the present ones. We only regret the government's error which allowed the release of the boats today.

We would have preferred that the courts issue a condemnatory decision, not an unfair, forced or illegal decision. We agree that the ships and captains should have been released had they committed no crime because more important than any national interest is the fact that we are viewed by the rest of the world as a state in which law prevails and in which even the government and authorities can be punished for their mistakes.

El Salvador

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON EXISTENCE OF GUERRILLA GROUPS

PA301427 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0245 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 29 Jan (LATIN)--Salvadoran Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth commented here today on the existence of guerrilla groups operating clandestinely in his country. Rodriguez, who made these statements at the airport before returning to his country, said that those groups "are constantly creating problems in rural areas with kidnapings, extortion and killings." He added that he does not exactly know the size of these guerrilla groups, "but they are well organized and well trained," he indicated.

Rodriguez said that extremist groups have appeared in his country over the past 8 years and that it is not known if they are receiving aid from abroad.

He disclosed that the Salvadoran Government, headed by President Carlos H. Romero, will issue a special law to counteract guerrilla activities.

Rodriguez spent 5 days here delivering documents to mediator Jose Bustamante y Rivero for the solution of the border conflict between El Salvador and Honduras.

Meanwhile, he did not give much importance to the accusations made against his country about human rights violations "because the versions in circulation do not in the least constitute official information from the OAS Human Rights Commission." He said that the OAS Human Rights Commission, which was invited by the Salvadoran Government to investigate the alleged violations, will release an official report in June.

BRIEFS

MINING RESEARCH PROJECT--A mining research project which will cost 3.8 million colones will be carried out in three regions of the country. According to official sources, the plan is aimed at determining the country's mineral resources and drafting a program for exploitation. In charge of the program are the Public Works and Economy ministries, autonomous institutions, the National Petroleum Committee and the Salvadoran Institute for Industrial Development. The research project will help to determine if there are any metallic or nonmetallic mineral resources as well as to discover and evaluate new deposits in order to obtain accurate information on the country's reserves and plan their orderly exploitation. [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Jan 79 p 3 PA]

GUATEMALA

CONSUMER PROTECTION NOTED IN PRICE REGULATION DECREE

PA291545 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 29 Jan 79 PA

[Unattributed commentary: "Price Regulation"]

[Text] The Economy Ministry's Accord No 74 authorizes the Office of Price Regulation to fix or modify the prices of daily consumption products, raw materials for national industry and products for traditional national consumption.

Some information on price modifications will be released soon as the Office of Price Regulation is now analyzing a number of factors ranging from the costs of input, production, labor, transportation and marketing to the per capita income of the average Guatemalan family--something that must be done conscientiously.

Therefore, the criteria for the regulation of prices are not arbitrary. They are based on marketing studies of production and consumption to determine their levels without discouraging the investor or hurting the consumer.

In this matter of production, the Economy Ministry has a most delicate task. So far, it has complied with the wishes of President of the Republic Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia to avoid affecting the domestic economy by discouraging producers. Such is the point of equilibrium which the Office of Price Regulation is trying to establish. Its final resolution, which will be submitted for the Cabinet's consideration, will reflect the government's interest in protecting the consumer.

There will be no disturbing effects on marketing, which in turn will guarantee supply for the demand maintained and encouraged by the consolidation of prices based on carefully conducted studies.

NICARAGUA

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT DECLARES COUNTRY BANKRUPT

PA310434 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1743 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[By Eduardo Romero]

[Excerpts] Managua, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua is bankrupt as a result of the virtual state of civil war maintained since last year. Roberto Incer Barquero, president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua, officially admitted that the government of President Gen Anastasio Somoza is absolutely bankrupt and will not be able to meet its international monetary commitments until 1980. Incer Barquero said that the government has decided to pay interest and try to renegotiate its foreign debt.

Incer Barquero told newsman Manuel Espinoza Enriquez from Radio Tiempo that if the climate of uncertainty and political instability continues, whatever the Central Bank does, whatever emergency measures it takes to control the currency, interest rates or anything else will be of little consequence.

According to Incer Barquero, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) refusal to grant Somoza's government a $20-million loan to solve the balance of payments problem is the main reason for Nicaragua's bankruptcy. He added that IMF's refusal to grant Nicaragua the loan is a political decision contrary to the IMF's legal status.

Despite the pessimistic views based on the hard facts of the country's critical economic situation, Incer Barquero announced that several alternatives will be sought to find a solution to the situation. However, he reiterated that it will be impossible to reach a solution if peace is not restored in the country soon, which so far seems most improbable.

On the other hand, there is no chance that the crisis can be solved through negotiations in Central America. The longstanding border conflict and the severing of diplomatic relations with Costa Rica are other negative aspects which do not help the situation.

Incer Barquero said that it is now up to private banks to seek foreign aid to finance exportable agricultural products for the current season since the state bank has already expended all its resources.

The Central Bank has also admitted that the emergency, finance and loan policy being implemented is creating huge losses for the government, which apart from receiving fewer revenues from taxes, is desperately trying to find a way to obtain more money through taxes from a population facing a high rate of inflation and unemployment.

Incer Barquero believes that under present conditions not only Nicaragua but the rest of Central America will receive no aid from international financing institutions, much less from foreign investors.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION APPROVES ELECTION PLANS

FL310027 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, has attended the fourth meeting of the National Electoral Commission held in Havana City this afternoon.

The meeting was chaired by Armando Torres Santrayll, minister of justice and chairman of the National Electoral Commission. Instructions for the constitution of people's goverrment municipal assemblies, election of municipal executive committees and election of delegates to provincial assemblies were discussed and approved at the meeting. The commission members also approved procedures for the preparation of voter lists. They also heard reports on visits made by the commission to the country's provinces.

The first and second round of people's government elections will be held nationally on 8 and 15 April to elect delegates to provincial assemblies.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MINISTRY HOLDS REVIEW MEETING

FL301142 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Jan 79 FL

[Text] With the attendance of 300 delegates from all over the country, the Chemical Industry Ministry annual review plenum was held in Neuvitas, Camaguey. According to the main report, the chemical sector last year achieved a 9-percent increase in relation to 1977 by completing 97 percent of the plans for this period with a figure of 660.80 million pesos.

BLAS ROCA PRESIDES OVER 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CTC

FL301129 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, last night presided over the event commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], which was held in the Lazaro Pena Theater in this capital. Others attending included the members of the Central Committee Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the CTC, Armando Acosta and Fabio Grobart.

The main remarks were made by Roberto Veiga, who recounted the events which led to the founding of the CTC, which took place in 1939 at this same site, with the participation of over 1,500 delegates representing close to 750,000 workers of the country. He said that four decades later we have come here to pay homage to that historic event with the same enthusiasm. But what yesterday was enthusiasm of hope today is enthusiasm of victory.

He also pointed out the role played by Lazaro Pena in guiding the worker movement. Lazaro Pena is also being honored today along with Jesus Menendez, Aracelio Iglesias, Jose Maria Perez and Carlos Fernandez--all trade union leaders who struggled and died defending the workers' interests. The trade union leader also said that in these 20 years of the revolution's victory, the CTC and its trade unions have played prominent roles in the various tasks of transforming the unjust social structure which was inherited from capitalism and in contributing to setting the foundations of the new society.

CTC SENDS LETTER TO KOREAN REUNIFICATION MEETING

FL302307 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 30 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) has sent a message to the Latin American and Caribbean countries conference on support for the independence and peaceful reunification of Korea being held in Georgetown, capital of Guyana.

The letter states in one of its parts that the CTC conveys its solidarity with this conference being held in favor of the just struggle being waged by the Korean workers and people for the peaceful reunification and independence of their homeland. We wish with all our heart, the letter says, that you will achieve the proposed objectives, and once again we reaffirm our firm solidarity with the noble cause of the Korean people in their anti-imperialist struggle for the well-being of the people.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH VISITING FRENCH DEPUTIES

FL292302 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 29 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with the delegation of the France-Cuba friendship group of the French National Assembly. The delegation consists of Jacques Delong, chairman of the aforementioned friendship group, and Deputies Guy Ducolone, Hector Rolland, (Jacques Antoin Daux) and (Charles Febrec).

The deputies were accompanied by (Claude Lebebel), chairman of international relations of the French National Assembly, and (Ghia Saiz), French charge d'affaires in Cuba.

Faustino Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and chairman of the Cuba-France friendship group; Aleida March of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; and other National Assembly officials participated in the meeting.

HAVANA RADIO COMMENTS ON CARTER-DENG TALKS

FL292204 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2136 GMT 29 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping] today initiated talks with President James Carter aimed at strengthening the Beijing [Peking] alliance with the United States.

Deng Xiaoping last night had dinner with Zbigniew Brzezinski, the North American President's national security adviser, who hosted an informal banquet.

The talks between the Chinese vice premier and Carter will occupy most of today's and tomorrow's schedule of activities.

In an interview with North American publishers published yesterday, President Carter said he would encourage the Chinese to help on some issues which he described as difficult ones. The principal topics of discussion would be the strategic arms limitation treaty--SALT--between the United States and the Soviet Union--to which China, with its policy against disarmament and peace, is opposed--and commercial and financial matters.

COMMENTATOR EXAMINES IRANIAN SITUATION

FL300243 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 79 FL

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Excerpts] The situation in Iran has been red hot for more than 2 months and, more obvious yet, it is worsening every day. The complexity of the country and a number of factors involved in the problem make it very difficult to predict what will happen there.

However, there is one point on which there is not the slightest doubt. The entire socio-economic-military structure which the United States imposed on Iran more than 25 years ago with Shah Reza Pahlavi leading it has come down with a crash. The Iranian people already are tired of the shah, the army and the shah's cruel political police--the sinister SAVAK created and advised by the CIA. They are tired of the lavishness with which the shah lives and of the stories of the shah's women.

The Iranian people are tired of U.S. interference in Iran, of the Yankee advisors, of the hundreds of CIA agents who operate in Iran, of the Yankee oil officials who exploit the Iranian oil fields on behalf of the five U.S. oil industry sisters--Standard, Gulf, Texaco, Mobil and Socal.

All this discontent over the excesses of an oppressing and cruel regime which has maintained the Iranian masses under exploitation is represented by the national front led by Karim Sanjabi, who was a minister in the Mossadeq government that was deposed by the CIA in 1953 because it nationalized the oil industry, and the movement for the liberation of Iran led by a religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The power of the religious factor in the Iranian situation cannot be overlooked. Ayatollah Khomeyni is capable, from the town of Neuphle-le-Chateau located about 50 km from Paris, where he lives in exile, of summoning demonstrations of 2 million people in Tehran and the principal Iranian cities. Some interesting things were pointed out in an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA in Paris by Abolhasan Bani Sadr, who is some sort of an economic adviser to Ayatollah Khomeyni and a prominent Iranian economist. Abolhasan asserts that the negative equilibrium is the basis of Iranian culture. And he adds that Khomeyni is the expression of the people and that he could even express ideas with which he does not agree because if he did not do so the people would not follow him as they do.

The new society which this adviser to Ayatollah Khomeyni describes in a somewhat confusing manner will produce whatever benefits man and not what will spoil him morally or physically. For this reason, oil will be produced without spoiling man and only to multiply its uses for the benefit of man. When Abolhasan speaks of money we can imagine the panic of the Wall Street sharks because he says that money will no longer be a weapon against the people, and he adds: The banks are full of money that has not been given to the people. We will give it through credits to peasants and workers cooperatives. Abolhasan says that an Iran ruled by the people will be nonalined, independent and free.

Washington is trying desperately to maintain control over Iran and it is faced with three variables: Support current Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, left there by the shah; reach a settlement or negotiation with the opposition; or threaten a military coup inspired by the CIA as in the times of the nationalist Mossadeq.

Regarding the latter point, Ayatollah Khomeyni has replied that for 25 years Iran has been under a military regime which in 1953 deposed Mossadeq, reinstalled Shah Reza Pavlavi on the throne and returned the oil industry to the Yankee masters who, moreover, had cooked up the coup through the CIA. Since then, the militarymen have been practically in power in Iran and, therefore, the threat of a coup is childish since there can be no coup to install what already exists.

The problem is a grave one for the strategy of imperialism on the southern flank of NATO where the Yankees have been able to manage any way they want the countries that have become guardians of their interests in that zone. We thus see the internal conflicts they have provoked in Italy and the tragedy of the Greeks, with the sinister colonels who are figureheads of the CIA. And they also want to do it in Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

For all these reasons, I reiterate that it is very difficult to predict what will happen in Iran. However, it is easy to assert that the Iranian people have placed the Yankees and their followers in dire straits.

BRIEFS

MARTI STUDY SEMINARS--The eighth youth seminar of Marti study circles has opened at the Education Ministry's auditorium with a speech by Juan Mock, member of the Union of Young Communists National Bureau and president of the Jose Marti Pioneer organization. Some 216 delegates from all parts of the country are participating in the seminar, grouped into committees which will meet at the Academy of Sciences. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 79 FL]

SUGAR HARVEST NEWS--Ten provinces and 49 sugar mills have been affected by the rains during the last workday, which concluded with 70-percent fulfillment of the production norm nationally. Of the 49 sugar mills affected by the rains, 15 are located in Matanzas Province and 10 in Villa Clara Province. The best grinding in the entire country was reported by Granma Province with 81-percent fulfillment. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 79 FL]

NEW FREIGHTER LEAVES ODESSA--A Cuban motorship named in honor of the outstanding revolutionary Jose Antonio Echeverria has left Odessa on its first working voyage. The ship was built by Kherson craftsmen and is intended to carry containers. The load capacity of the new vessel is 14,900 tons, its length is 167 meters and its width is 22 meters. The motorship will deliver cargo to the Bulgarian port of Varna and will then set course for the shores of the isle of freedom. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2200 GMT 4 Jan 79 LD]

GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER HERE FOR COMMERCE TALKS

PA301927 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1037 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Jan (EFE)--A special Guatemalan Government mission headed by its foreign minister is holding discussions here with Dominican authorities on a number of commercial projects of interest to the two nations. The group met yesterday with Dominican Foreign Minister Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez and other government officials before holding talks with President Antonio Guzman.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Eduardo Castillo Valdez said that they are giving the final touches to several commercial projects which he did not further explain. The Guatemalan foreign minister said that efforts are being made to intensify the friendship between his country and the Dominican Republic. He added that they have ties which are very old, that they have a common future, and that they should take advantage of this.

Joint Declaration Issued

PA310153 Paris AFP in Spanish 2306 GMT 30 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Jan (AFP)--The foreign ministers of the Dominican Republic and Guatemala expressed satisfaction here today over work for regional understanding and coordination being carried out by the Latin American Economic System (LAES).

In a joint declaration the two foreign ministers reaffirmed that their countries will continue to offer maximum support to LAES since it is the most appropriate forum for generating overall political, economic and social guidelines to help the region in its relations with the rest of the world.

Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez and Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Eduardo Castillo Valdez reiterated their support for regional and subregional systems of economic integration which they consider to be the most effective instruments for expanding markets and strengthening the economies of participating countries.

Jimenez expressed his government's intention of establishing greater contact with Central American peoples and governments and their regional organizations, and Castillo Valdez noted Guatemala's willingness to serve as liaison for that purpose.

In a united front, the two countries hope to maintain close cooperation with coffee- and sugar-producing countries. They expressed their support for the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA) and for the efforts being made to have the U.S. Government ratify the international sugar agreement.

The document adds that the Guatemalan foreign minister informed his Dominican counterpart about the status of Guatemala's territorial dispute with Great Britain over Belize.

The two ministers signed an agreement to eliminate the use of visas between their countries and declared that the two nations will seek to establish a mechanism for the negotiation of economic and technical agreements. In addition, they announced that they considered the possibility of creating a joint Guatemalan-Dominican commission to study means of cooperation.

In the declaration, which was issued at the airport as Castillo Valdez was ending his official visit, the Dominican foreign minister described their contact as positive in strengthening relations between the two countries.